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## Foxtel lands two of the most anticipated new US dramas of the year

Starring Oscar winners Jessica Lange, Susan Sarandon, Helen Hunt, Richard Dreyfuss

***FEUD: Bette and Joan* starts March 12**

and

***Shots Fired* starts April 10**

on

**showcase.**

***Or stream them on Foxtel Play***

Foxtel is proud to announce the acquisition of the two most highly anticipated new US drama series of 2017, having secured the Australian television rights to the latest project from prolific television producer Ryan Murphy, ***FEUD: Bette and Joan*** starring **Jessica Lange** and **Susan Sarandon**, and the racially charged event drama ***Shots Fired***, starring **Sanaa Lathan**, **Stephan James**, **Helen Hunt**, **Richard Dreyfuss** and **Stephen Moyer**. Both dramas come from Twentieth Century Fox Television Distribution.

***FEUD: Bette and Joan***, the new anthology television series from *American Horror Story* producer Murphy, will premiere **March 12, Sundays at 8.30pm** on **showcase**.

The eight episode drama tells the story of the legendary rivalry between Joan Crawford (Jessica Lange) and Bette Davis (Susan Sarandon) during their collaboration on the thriller *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?* and well after the cameras stopped rolling. The series explores how the two women endured ageism, sexism, and misogyny while struggling to hang on to success and fame in the twilight of their careers.

In addition to Academy Award®-winners Lange and Sarandon, the cast includes **Alfred Molina** as the film's director Robert Aldrich, **Stanley Tucci** as studio titan Jack Warner, **Judy Davis** as gossip columnist Hedda Hopper, **Jackie Hoffman** as Crawford's housekeeper Mamacita, and **Alison Wright** as Aldrich's assistant Pauline. Notable guest stars include **Dominic Burgess** as Crawford and Davis' co-star Victor Buono, **Catherine Zeta-Jones** as film star Olivia de Havilland, **Sarah Paulson** as Geraldine Page, **Kathy Bates** as Joan Blondell and **Kiernan Shipka** as B.D., Bette Davis' daughter. Ryan Murphy serves as executive producer along with executive producers Dede Gardner of Brad Pitt's Plan B Entertainment, Tim Minear and Alexis Martin Woodall. The series is produced by Fox 21 Television Studios.

Foxtel's **FOX Classics** channel will set the stage for the series with multiple screenings of the 1962 film ***Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?*** on Sunday, March 5 at 8.30pm and Tuesday, March 14 at 8.35pm.

View promo for ***FEUD: Bette and Joan*** via link <http://www.showcasechannel.com.au/videos/feud-teaser>

***Shots Fired*** examines the dangerous aftermath of two racially charged shootings in a small Southern US town, providing an explosive autopsy of the criminal justice system. The 10 episode drama will premiere **April 10, Mondays at 8.30pm** on **showcase**, moving in to the timeslot the week following the conclusion of *Big Little Lies*.

When an African-American Sheriff's deputy kills an unarmed white college student, a small town in North Carolina is turned upside-down. Before the town has a chance to grapple with this tragedy, the neglected murder of an African-American teen is brought to light, opening wounds that threaten to tear the community apart.

Leading the Department of Justice's inquiry into these shootings is seasoned investigator Ashe Akino (Sanaa Lathan) and a young Special Prosecutor Preston Terry (**Stephan James**), both of whom are African-American. As they start to peel back the layers of both cases, they suspect a cover-up which may involve some of the state's most powerful people, including fiercely political North Carolina Governor Patricia Eamons (guest star Academy®, Emmy® and Golden Globe® Award-winning actress Helen Hunt). She's in a tough re-election fight, and the recent shootings in her state are making it even tougher. Meanwhile, real estate mogul and owner of a privatized prison Arlen Cox (Academy® and Golden Globe® Award-winning actor Richard Dreyfuss), is pulled into the volatile debate over policing in the town, and Lt. Calvert Breeland (**Stephen Moyer**), a seasoned veteran in the Sheriff's Department, gets caught in the middle of the investigation.

As Ashe and Preston navigate the media attention, public debate and social unrest that come with such volatile cases, *Shots Fired* tackles the racial divide from every seat in the house.

*Shots Fired* is produced by 20th Century Fox Television, in association with Imagine Television and Undisputed Cinema. The series is created and executive-produced by Gina Prince-Bythewood and Reggie Rock Bythewood. Brian Grazer and Francie Calfo also serve as executive producers.

Following the broadcast on showcase ***FEUD: Bette and Joan*** and ***Shots Fired*** will be available to watch on demand, via Foxtel Anytime on internet connected iQ boxes. Customers can also stream the series on demand on Foxtel Play or Foxtel Go. Foxtel Go is included with all Foxtel residential and Foxtel Play subscriptions at no extra cost.

#### **About Foxtel**

Foxtel is one of Australia's most progressive and dynamic media companies, directly employing around 2,800 people and delivering a diverse subscription television service over cable, satellite and broadband distribution. Foxtel effortlessly connects Australians to all the stories they love by offering a better entertainment experience every day to more than 2.8 million subscribing homes through delivery of new and inspiring programming across all genres, the world's most popular channel brands, and investment in high quality local content. As constant champions of innovation we have brought customers the iQ personal digital recorder; Australia's largest HD channel offering; the Foxtel Go App for tablets and mobile devices; internet TV service, Foxtel Play; and television, broadband and home phone bundles with Foxtel internet and voice services delivered over Australia's largest telecommunications network. Foxtel is owned by Telstra Corporation Limited ACN 051 775 556 (50%) and News Corporation (50%).

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